# the Lions' Pride

Of Saint Leo University

FRIDAY, JANUARY 23, 2004 VOLUME XXXVII NO. 8 SINCE 1965


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## The cost of tuition and its connection to the presidential election

**As presidential candidates prepare for the upcoming election, tuition costs have become an issue.**

BY JENNIFER REILLY
The Lions' Pride Staff

SAINT LEO - If you think tuition costs are too high, then you need to vote.

With the upcoming presidential elections, an issue that may be important to most college students is the view of each candidate on the condition of rising tuitions. Tuition, including room and board, averages $6,700 at public schools and $18,500 at private schools. This financial need is often met by loans or grants provided by the federal government. Most of the candidates for the 2004 election have a plan to make college tuition more affordable.

George W. Bush, Sen. John Kerry, and Sen. Joe Lieberman have plans to raise the federal Pell grant for low-income students. Sen. John Edwards believes that students should be given the opportunity to do community service in exchange for the funding of their education. This idea sounds convenient; students receive an education and in exchange, they give back to their community and their country.

Saint Leo student, John Kelmer agrees.

"I think the policy of community service would be efficient for low income housing families because it would give them the opportunity to pay for their education."

Former Gov. Howard Dean has developed the *Dean College Commitment.* With his plan, Dean offers some college students $10,000 a year in financial aid.

Rep. Dick Gephardt has a plan to increase the number of students entering the teaching profession by developing the Teaching Corps Program, which will pay for the financial aid of students who commit to teaching for five years.

Gen. Wesley Clark plans to make tuition free for the first two years of college. He also plans to simplify financial aide by providing a full $6,000 grant

——TUITION CON'T ON PAGE 5

## Celebrating progress: Community Day

**The couple wants to show their continued commitment.**

**Courtesy of *SLU News***
Department of Public Relations

SAINT LEO – "Saint Leo University was blessed abundantly in 2003," said Dr. Arthur F. Kirk, president of Saint Leo, while speaking at Community Day on Jan. 8. Dr. Kirk spoke on the state of the University, highlighting Saint Leo's continued growth and progress. Topics included two new planned residence halls for 2005, Saint Leo's first-ever comprehensive fundraising campaign, process engineering, new market development, the future of online education, and enhanced learning through technology.

"In summary, so far, so good," he said. "Saint Leo had a 14 percent enrollment growth, with overall enrollment in the fall at 12,190 students. There are 1,083 student on University Campus – the highest number since 1989."

Economist and author of "Millennials Rising: The Next Great Generation," Neil Howe, spoke on the nature of today's student. "His talk 'Millennials Rising: Strategic Implications for Saint Leo University,' comprehensively looked at the attitudes, habits, values, and actions of the Millennial generation," said Dr. Gary Bracken, vice president for enrollment.

Classified as those born since 1982, these are Saint Leo's entering students. Howe demonstrated that these students are different than their brothers, sisters, and parents. "Saint Leo must adapt, changing how we relate to Millennial students in

—COMMUNITY CON'T ON PAGE 4

# Opinions

EDITORIAL

## Beef eaters don't need to get mad

**BY JAMES W. OLTJEN**
Daily Bruin (U. California-Los Angeles)

(U-WIRE) LOS ANGELES — One single cow has turned my world as a beef management specialist at the University of California, Davis, upside down.

Born in Canada where it was probably exposed to the infectious agent as a young animal, the cow tested positive in Washington state for bovine spongiform encephalopathy, also known as mad cow disease. Questions on how this occurred and what should be done about it are consuming much of my time now.

It's one of those issues the government wants to control so as not to alarm unduly the public. The public demands to know whether it should be concerned about the safety of the beef it consumes. The beef industry wants to ensure everything is being done so that there is no chance of BSE occurring in the United States.

I am reminded of what one of my professors said when I began graduate school. "Half of what we teach you is wrong," he said. "The problem is that we don't know which half." So, in dealing with this issue, there is room for error.

In the mid-1990s, a link between BSE and a new human encephalopathy variant called Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease was observed in Great Britain and confirmed by scientists at UC San Francisco. BSE was at epidemic proportions in the British cattle herd and epidemiological predictions of thousands of human cases of Creutzfeldt-Jakob in the United Kingdom were made. Fortunately, those predictions were wrong — there have been fewer than 200 confirmed human cases.

In the United States, safeguards have been in place since the late 1980s to prevent the occurrence of BSE. These safeguards include the prohibition of importing live cattle and most ruminant products from the United Kingdom and other high-risk countries. A ruminant feed ban also was added in 1997. A Harvard risk assessment study in November 2001 showed little chance of BSE occurring in North America, but now there have been two cases — one May 20 in Canada and the recent case Dec. 23 in Washington. Of course, these figures still are miniscule compared to the hundreds of thousands of cases in Europe.

Will there be more cases in North America? Probably. Does that make beef less safe? Maybe. Should we be concerned? Definitely. But how concerned? That is the question.

I acutely am aware of the reactions of many California ranchers. First and foremost, they want the USDA to do whatever it takes to ensure BSE stays out of the country, and they understand they may have to change some practices to assist that effort. Some type of animal identification system is a likely outcome for the beef industry, and it seems ready for such measures. The USDA recently has added a number of other beef processing practices that will further ensure safety including banning the human consumption of non-ambulatory cattle (downers) and other suspect cattle until they test negative for BSE. It also has placed additional restrictions on specified risk materials — such as central nervous system tissue — from entering the food supply, and it has implemented a verifiable system of national animal identification.

The identification plan has been in the works for the past 18 months. The details of whether it will be a unique identifier for every animal or just for every ranch are being discussed. In addition, the United States maintains an aggressive surveillance system by targeting high-risk animals at a rate exceeding international standards. This system allowed for the discovery of the two North American cases — both animals were born before the ruminant feed ban in 1997 and thus possibly fed "legal" meat and bone meal.

But what consumer precautions make sense? To me, it is reassuring to live in a country at a time when all the verifiable information regarding the issue is made public and we are given the chance to evaluate its impact on us — unlike the mishandling of the BSE and Creutzfeldt-Jakob outbreaks in Great Britain several years ago. International scientists agree that the risk to human health from eating muscle meat is negligible as infectious material is found primarily in central nervous system tissue.

Consumers can be assured that the beef industry and the USDA remain committed to protecting our food supply and our health. I am confident the American consumer, when given the whole truth, will react appropriately.

## King of Pop's actions appalling, but do not warrant media frenzy

**BY RANDY SHAFFER**
Daily Kent Stater (Kent state U.)

(U-WIRE) KENT, Ohio — Making fun of Michael Jackson is about as easy as making Ramen noodles.

He's just an easy target. First he grabs himself on stage, then he has a monkey named Bubbles, then his skin color changes, then he allegedly molests children, dangles babies, botches surgeries and allegedly molests more children.

Michael Jackson, it seems, is a walking, talking soap opera balled up into a big pile of mush, which I'm assuming is what his face will ultimately become.

Michael Jackson, as I'm sure you know, is back in the media spotlight again, this time because he has been arrested on charges that he molested a teenage boy. This is not Jackson's first accusation. In 1993, he was accused of molesting a 13-year-old boy. That case settled out of court.

I'll be the first to admit it's fun to spill water cooler jokes about Michael Jackson. Jokes about his friendships with Pee Wee Herman, R. Kelly, and Jeffrey Jones, jokes about his messed-up and frightening face and about his odd marriages.

Michael is exactly what the media loves. He is this gigantic barrel of stupid news that's fun to report and harmless to the viewers.

What about Michael Jackson, though? Now, I'm not taking sides with the guy; I think what he is accused of doing is simply atrocious and I want his children taken away from him so they can lead normal lives, but I am still nervous for the former King of Pop.

A few weeks ago, former child star Jonathan Brandis committed suicide. Many speculate that the backlash of his child star career weighed heavily on him, causing him to get depressed.

His career had been reduced to rubble. He was only getting bit parts in minor films. He could not escape how the world saw him. On Nov. 11, he hanged himself. He died the following day.

I begin to wonder whether this was the media's fault. They once painted Brandis as the poster child for various "teen beat" type magazines, perhaps so much so that when he grew into an adult, the media hated him and ultimately forgot him.

He was criticized by the media and made fun of by his peers and once adoring fans. With Michael Jackson, similar events are taking place, only on a much larger scale.

Jonathan Brandis he ain't, but Jackson was in the media spotlight for more than three decades with similar aspirations. They put him on a pedestal so high that it nearly reached the heavens. Then he made a few mistakes and they hated him. They destroyed him and smashed his existence. Michael would become a sort of living freakshow a few years later, only showing up in the news when he did something horrendous or horrendously stupid.

I am worried that Michael will suffer the same fate as Brandis did and that's not fair, no matter what he's done. No one should take their own life. It's just too risky, no matter what religion you may or may not believe in. I fear the media is actually trying to get Michael to kill himself.

It's not the reporting so much as it is the editorials and negative columns which focus on making fun of Jackson more than anything else.

Yeah, we got it. Jackson is an easy target, perhaps the easiest media target since "new Coke." That doesn't mean everyone should jump on the bandwagon and make fun of him.

If the allegations turn out to be true, Jackson deserves to be punished legally, but he doesn't deserve the hate he is receiving from fans, non-fans and critics.

It's simply not fair to put that much pressure on one man. If the media is going to keep pressuring him, they might as well use this headline: "Suicide is painless, Michael Jackson! You're a freak." Maybe then they'll get what they want across.

## WRITE HERE

The Lions' Pride newsroom is located in portable #4, which is on the west side of St. Edward's Hall. Our phone number is (352) 588-8195.

Send letters to the editor to lions.pride@saintleo.edu

Letters to the editor must be submitted with student's name, year, and major. Faculty and staff members must include rank and department.

Please include a phone number (not for publication) so we can verify authorship. All letters are subject to editing.

The Lions' Pride reserves the right not to publish any letter or column.

# Walking your way to a stress-free life

## College students can relieve stress in as little as 30 minutes a day.

BY NATASHA FREDERICKS KLEIN
Editor for The Lions' Pride

SAINT LEO - A little known fact is walking to class can relieve stress.

In contemporary life, there is no limit to daily stress. With the turmoil that encompasses many of the lives of United States' citizens, it is hard not to be pulled into stressful situations or minor depression. But there are several ways to combat this stress: talking with counselors, visiting with friends, and exercising.

***Walking not only helps people reduce the stress in their lives, but it is also a fantastic way to stay in shape.***

One of the simplest, most effective exercises for reducing stress is walking. It helps to reduce stress and anxiety as well as helps to keep one in good physical condition.

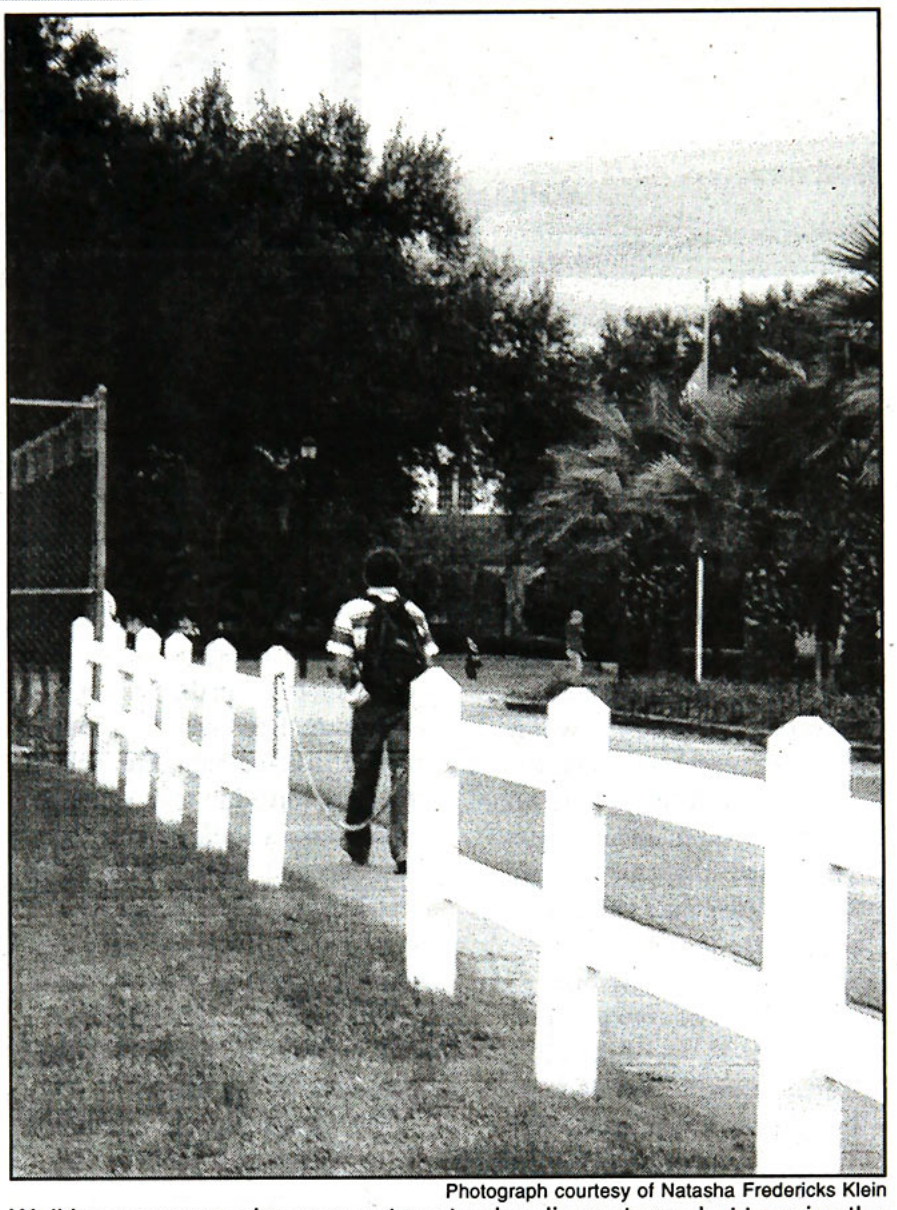
"After I walk, I feel more calm and relaxed because I have time to think things through and can think rationally after a long walk," said Ashley Simpson, a Saint Leo sophomore.

Many students do not know where to find information on walking. Yet, within reach of today's college students there are many books available on walking and it is effectiveness on the body, mind, and spirit, such as: Walking: A Complete Guide to the Complete Exercise by Casey Meyers and The Spirited Walker: Fitness Walking for Clarity, Balance, and Spiritual Connection by Carolyn S. Kortge.

There are also several web sites including: the official website for the President's Challenge, a program that encourages people to make exercise part of their daily routine. The site, http://www.presidentschallenge.org/, includes walking as a form of fitness that one should do for at least 30 minutes five days a week. Even if one has a tight schedule or a disability, there is a walking plan available for every lifestyle, every body type, and every ability.

Walking as little as 30 minutes a day can help improve attitude, outlook, and health according to a study conducted at Washington University in Saint Louis, Missouri.

Recent studies show that it does not matter when, but how one walks. One study conducted at Loughborough University, Leicestershire in the United Kingdom, found that women who walk continuously for 30 minutes five days a week had almost identical increases in overall fitness as women who split their 30 minutes into three ten-minute walks.



Photograph courtesy of Natasha Fredericks Klein
Walking on campus is one way to not only relieve stress, but to enjoy the scenery and get plenty of exercise.

Saint Leo University's Janice Waldstein RN warned "If you don't eat right and exercise, you will shave years off your life." Interviews with some of Saint Leo's student body revealed that more active students tend to be more positive:

"Working out helps me get into physical shape which helps me be more successful academically," says Saint Leo sophomore Cristina Oliva.

Fellow sophomore, Ashley Zynda summed up the experience best when she said, "Just do it. Work out and see for yourself."

## Celebrating Martin Luther King, Jr.

Photograph courtesy of Natasha Fredericks Klein

***Saint Leo University honored U.S. civil rights leader Martin Luther King, Jr., on Monday, January 19 with a tribute in the cafeteria. The Nobel peace laureate, who led a non-violent campaign on behalf of black Americans against racial segregation and discrimination in the 1950s and 1960s, was assassinated in 1968. The 75th anniversary of his birthday was Thursday.***

# UNV 101

## The Controversy

### Though many students understand the benefit of the UNV class, others feel it it pointless and unnecessary.

**BY JULIA CARROLL**
Photographer for The Lions' Pride

SAINT LEO - When you mention UNV 101 on the Saint Leo University campus, you will get a variety of reactions. Some will be of frustration from reading a book they do not quite understand or agree with; others are angry at taking a class they see as useless and a waste of time; and yet others have an indifference to the class and just do it to get the required class out of the way.

However, if you talk to some of the upper-classmen on the subject, they will give you a different story. They will tell you how much that class helped them, or how much they learned. There are, however, still those upper and lower classmen who did not, and do not, see the point.

UNV 101 is a semi-typical college entry class. It teaches critical thinking and writing skills, introduces students to an interdisciplinary approach to learning through the reading of an interdisciplinary thematic text, and builds a community of learners (all students take the same course). It consists of writing a paper almost every week, along with having a professor look over the paper and the student making revisions. This year the topic of choice is lying. The freshmen have been given two books to read and analyze. This year the books are The Concise Book of Lying written by Evelin Sullivan and Lying by Sissela Bok.

A basic version of UNV 102 is offered at 80-90 percent of the universities in the United States, from Yale and Harvard to Texas A & M and Ohio State University. Saint Leo University has instead partnered the more typical survival skills course (UNV 102) with a freshmen seminar (UNV 101). Some universities make their students take a ten credit hour course that is like this university's UNV class.

UNV 101 can mean different things to different people at different times in their college career. As freshmen, it usually means just another writing class they are forced to take. Although it may take a while, the majority of students do tend to see the profit in taking the class.

"I loved my UNV 101 class," commented sophomore Michelle Bonner, "I learned a lot from it, and I wish that I could have the chance to take it again."

Although most of the current freshmen class have yet to see the upside to the class, and many students feel it is a waste of their time.

"I felt that this class is a total waste of my time and money. I thought we had Academic Writing to teach us how to write papers better, and I do not understand the purpose of UNV 101," said freshman Marian Harvey. "It does not help us with our majors, and the credits are not transferable. We could be spending our money and time on classes for our intended majors or other things."

Some students do like the basic topic of the class and the subject, lying, that is being used; but they do have a problem with the reading material. Most freshmen, if they had to pick their favorite of the two books, would choose Sullivan's book.

"I like Sullivan's book because she has a more open and humanistic view of lying. Unlike Bok, I do not feel that Sullivan feels that she is the one authority of the subject. I also find her book easier to read than Bok's book," stated freshman Harry Dale.

The majority of teachers, however, felt it is a very good class to take.

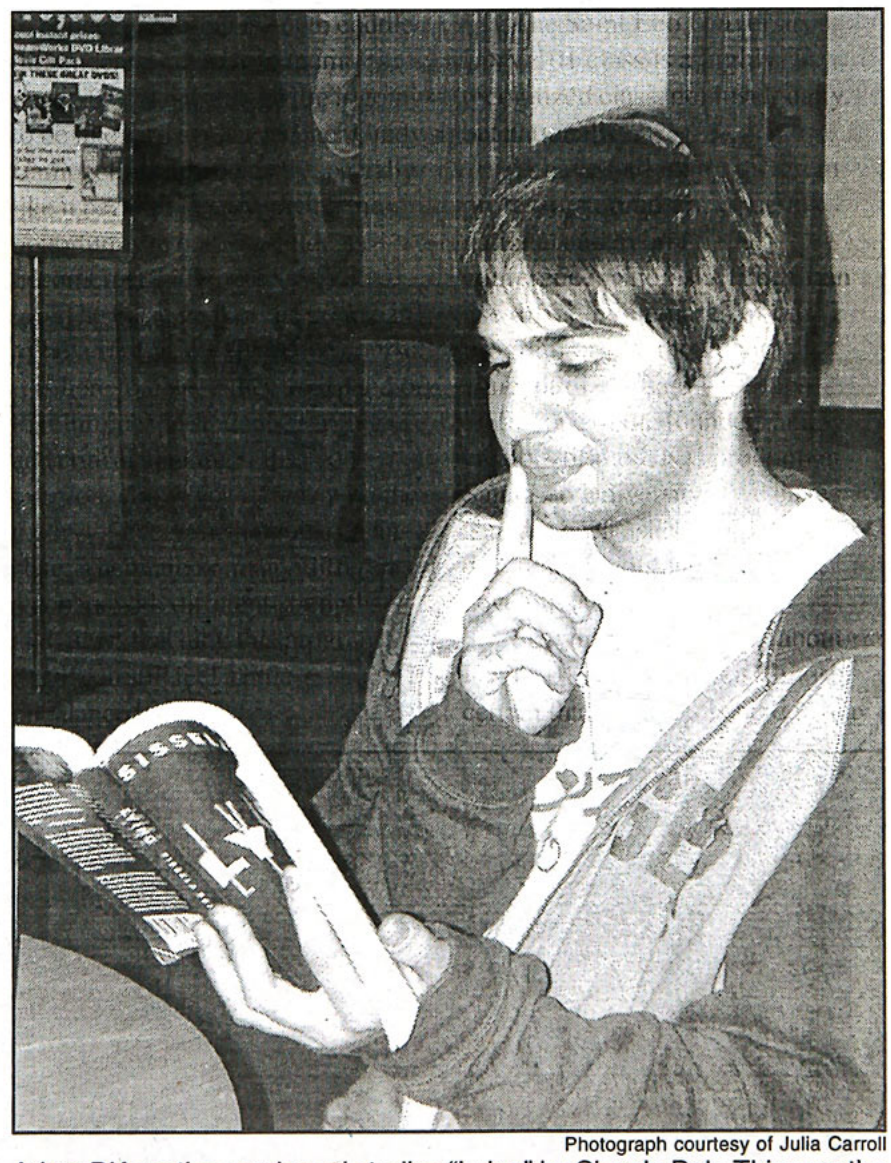
"I like the class; everyone comes in with an even slate. It helps in the jump from high school to college. The goal is not to coddle the students, but to help them understand what college life is going to be like," UNV 101 teacher Cindy Campbell commented. "I especially like it because I enjoy having the opportunity to help my students become better writers."

The basic goal of the course is to be a first year experience course. It is here to help, either to expand or to reinforce the students' writing and critical thinking skills. Not everyone, however, agrees with the theory of everyone having a clean slate. There are so many different teachers with different strengths and views teaching this program that it can still feel a little unbalanced.

The Saint Leo University UNV 101 class is a highly recognized class, not just locally, but nationally.

"I have had many different professors come up to me at national and international conferences and ask if they can use different elements of our program or just the general concept of it," said Dr. Mary Spoto, one of the founders and creators of the UNV program at Saint Leo University. "We have actually been asked to go to different schools and help them develop a similar program."

So, while the emotions about UNV 101 are mixed, it is almost certain that the class is here to stay.



Photograph courtesy of Julia Carroll
Adam D'Agostino reads and studies "Lying" by Sissela Bok. This was the required book of UNV 101 this past semester.

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to any student whose family makes up to $100,000.

Freshman Ally Cronin sees merit in Clark's plan.

"I believe that General Clark's ideas on education are sound. His simplification of the financial aid system makes sense and seems like it would work."

Other candidates, including Reverend Al Sharpton and Rep. Dennis Kucinich, have less concrete plans that include taking away tax cuts for the wealthy.

CNN held a "Rock the Vote" Democratic Debate, which targeted young voters. The topics discussed included racism, homeland security, and civil rights among others. Education was mentioned with references to AmeriCorps, a program that allows students to pay for an education in exchange for service.

The plans for higher education are directly targeted at the demographic that is easily represented at Saint Leo University. Our campus consists of students in their late teens to mid-twenties. It is within our able-minded youth that the country's future resides. If paying for college means strengthening the loan system, requiring community service, or encouraging certain fields of study, it is imperative that candidates develop platforms and plans for improving secondary education.

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# The need for trust exists in this country

**BY BRYAN McCABE**
Staff Writer for The Lions' Pride

Dr. Sissela Bok, author and professor at Harvard, visited Saint Leo University on Tuesday, Nov. 18. She gave a speech in Selby Auditorium about her book, Lying Moral Choice in Public and Private Life.

In her speech, Dr Bok addressed the largely freshmen audience about the need for trust. The students were attentive and took notes on Bok's speech. Members from the English Honors society, Sigma Tau Delta, ushered the event, and asked Bok questions along with the freshmen.

To begin her discussion, Bok focused on large scale problems of lying by addressing political concerns and the need for us to able to trust our leaders. Then, she focused on the importance of trust between family members and friends. She told the freshmen that trust is a foundation that must not be broken, or things will fall apart.

In dealing with lying, Bok discussed the hidden risks and invisible crimes associated with lying. She explained that lying creates a slow process of destruction because lies often go undiscovered, but they still have negative consequences.

Furthermore, Bok offered solutions and ways to avoid lying. She discussed an event in her personal life in which her husband had the choice to lie or be honest about his opinion of one of her decorated hats from her native country Sweden. He told her the truth, that he didn't particularly like the hat, and she admired his honesty.

> ***Bok focused on large scale problems of lying by addressing political concerns and the need for us to able to trust our leaders. Then, she focused on the importance***

To conclude her speech, Bok focused on society as a whole, and addressed the need for everyone to be honest in order to have a successful society. She spoke on how countries with the lowest levels of deception are the most productive and content. She explained that if families are not honest with each other, it could affect the harmony of the whole society.

After the speech, Bok answered students' questions. These ranged from political questions to philosophical questions concerning the meaning of the word "truth."

After the speech, Bok received applause from students and faculty alike. Bok said that, "Saint Leo is a beautiful campus," and she, "felt good about the whole event."


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Community Con't

order to meet their expectations, recruit, and educate them," said Bracken.

Dr. Kirk recognized a team of seven individuals from Information Technology who preserved Saint Leo's communication system in fall, 2003. "They demonstrated the value of excellence by working tirelessly to protect Saint Leo's mail server, known as 'Hera' after the Greek goddess, after it was attacked by computer viruses," said Kirk.

In the early days of the school year, Saint Leo was silently and repeatedly attacked. The seven individuals, aptly named as "Hera's Heros," include Darin Walters, user support and technical services manager; Howard Berg, network manager; Matt Redman, Datatel programmer; and PC technicians Jason Murray, Steve Carroll, Erol Urksoy and Mike Spino. They each received a framed picture depicting the faces of Saint Leo's team of cyber crusaders fighting a virus-breathing dragon and defending Hera, trapped atop her computer castle.

Doyia Turner, director of Public Relations, shared her experiences as it relates to the value of community.

"When I left my job in Indiana, I was looking for a sense of community geographically in my new residence and in my job," she said. "Coming from a big company, I felt like a number, and it was difficult to see the full results of my work. I was attracted to Saint Leo because of the small and intimate nature of the Saint Leo community. I know I can have a direct impact here."

After Turner's presentation, she introduced a new video titled "My Saint Leo" wich captures what Saint Leo means to faculty, staff, students, and alumni. Public Relations produced the video.

# Arts & Entertainment

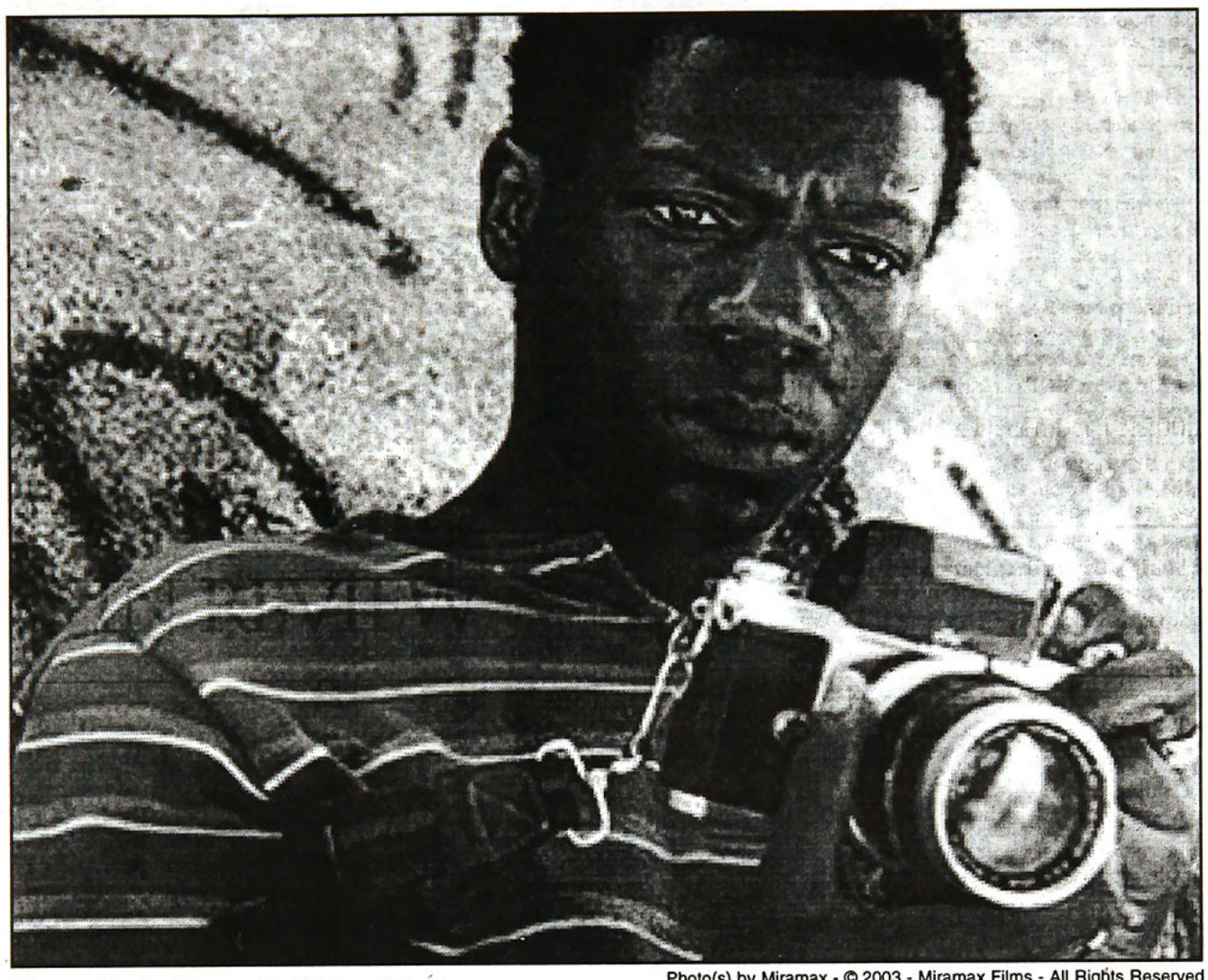
## 2003 MOVIES IN REVIEW

### "Films of 2003 excited, delighted, disappointed audiences"

BY PABLO SALDANA, OLGA ROBAK, NICK MARGIASSO & HAROLD VALENTINE

The Oracle (U. South Florida)

(U-WIRE) TAMPA, Fla. - In 2003, some directors only released parts of their movies (Quentin Tarantino's "Kill Bill"), while others went all-out and released two (The Wachowski Brothers' "Matrix" sequels). Included are 13.5 descriptions (you got it, "Kill Bill" is that extra half) of what we thought rocked and what we thought sucked.



Alexandre Rodrigues in "City of God"

Photo(s) by Miramax - © 2003 - Miramax Films - All Rights Reserved

**"28 Days Later" (Danny Boyle): Best film with three alternate endings**

The film was a refreshing not-quite-zombie fright fest that boasted a strong screenplay, original direction and a theme of triumph in the face of death. The horror movie cliche, in which the main character always narrowly escapes death, was put to rest when "28 Days Later" was re-released in theaters with a dark, depressing ending. The third ending was packaged with the DVD release and was a storyboard that wasn't just an ending, but a reworking of the film's final half-hour.

**"Better Luck Tomorrow" (Justin Lin): Best portrayal of badass Asians**

High school is a tough place. But if you have the discipline and drive to finish at the top of your class you're either a stubborn nerd or you're Asian. So maybe that's a rough stereotype, but "Better Luck Tomorrow" gives a well-done dark overview of a power trip gone bad. It's got violence, crime, drugs, chicks and Asian kids spewing sarcasm left and right. What else could you want from a film?

**"Big Fish" (Tim Burton): Best normal film from an edgy director**

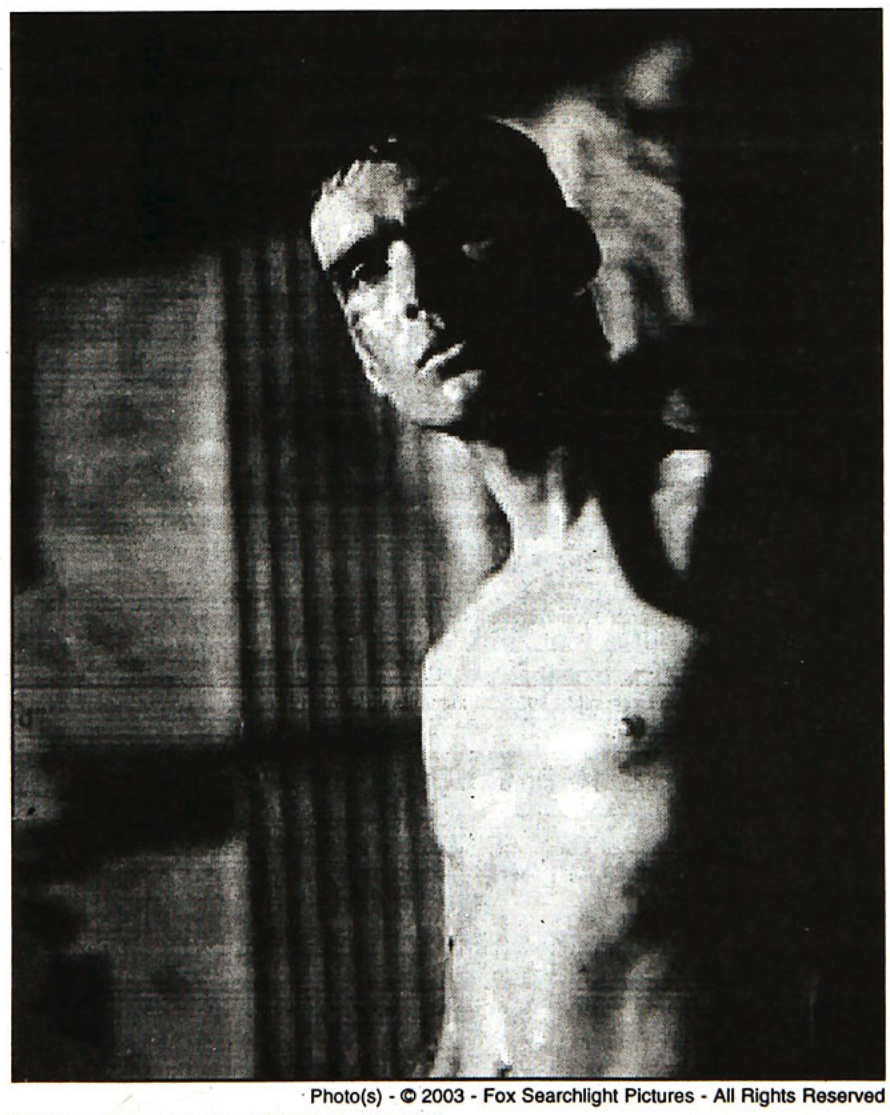
Burton has taken much heat over the normalcy of his latest contribution to the cinematic world. But does every Burton film have to be edgy, dark and different? Instead of his usual shenanigans, Burton makes an epic tale out of an overused premise with such grace and stylistic ease that it's hard not to find his new effort a masterpiece.

**"Lord of the Rings: Return Of The King" (Peter Jackson): Best conclusion of movies about a Ring**

Peter Jackson creates a lush and serene backdrop equipped with an eerie feeling of imminent doom that entraps middle earth. As a director, Jackson has proven himself by capturing epic tales of love, greed and taking on impossible odds, all the while staying true to J.R.R. Tolkiens' Rings series. First, New Line declined rumors of producing The Hobbit but after the large sum of cash the first three films brought studio execs, the execs are is rethinking the idea of filming the prequel and even discussing the possibilities with Ring's director Jackson.

**"City of God" (Fernando Meirelles): Best reason to never mess with anyone from the Brazilian ghetto**

As far as indies and foreign flicks are concerned, directors have to make their first impressions count. Newbie Fernando Meirelles' "City of God" — a partially factual tale of violence, power and romance in the 1970s Brazilian ghetto — blew movie buffs and critics away with his screamingly brilliant debut. The film, which rivals all others in movie history as the greatest debut flick ever, is an all around standout. City sports fascinating character development, clever cinematography and some of the most violently passionate scenes art houses have ever reeled off. More importantly, the film smashes the door for modern foreign film success in America after years of doorbell ringing by its predecessors.



Cillian Murphy in "28 Days Later"

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**"Thirteen" (Catherine Hardwicke): Most disturbing film based on real-life experiences**

When you were 13, chances are that your parents were your

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**Benicio Del Toro in "21 Grams"**

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**Vivica A. Fox in "Kill Bill Vol. 1"**

authority figures and drugs were as far from your mind as Paris is from New York. But for Nicki Reed, those days were long gone. And as a co-writer of "Thirteen," Reed used her real life experiences to give inspiration to the screenplay. On top of that, she plays the corruptive force in the film, opposing her own corruption in real life. The movie is an incredibly strong statement about kids without enough parental supervision, but too much of a desire to be cool.

**"Capturing the Friedmans" (Andrew Jarecki): Best reality-is-stranger-than-fiction documentary**

The film starts slowly, by exploring members of the Friedman family and what they mean to each other. The air of reservation the interviewees exhibit is compelling: The audience knows something terrible is about to happen in the world of the Friedmans. At the center of the drama is Arnold Friedman, a computer teacher, whose practices are put under the microscope when accusations of child molestation fly. This takes place at a time when computers in schools are not readily available and children went to the Friedman household to receive their lessons. The police suspect Arnold after they bust him for ordering child porn. It turns out he's had stacks of this material throughout the house, but the testimony of the accusers is frequently inconsistent, and moviegoers are left to judge for themselves: How far did Arnold Friedman go?

**"Lost in Translation" (Sophia Coppola): Best indie film that was actually recognized**

When the lens of Sophia Coppola focuses on the everyday fabric of two likeable characters lost in Tokyo, the results are nothing short of spectacular. Audiences may deduce the influence of father (and filmmaker) Francis Ford Coppola on her virtuoso-like film photography. Sophia Coppola's cinematography remains a celebration of life in her sophomore effort. However, she learned this trade is of little importance when enjoying the movie, which is a loving look at an older celebrity and an Ivy League graduate. The two bond amid the stress of their personal lives with too much time on their hands. The ambiguity of their relationship is maturely resolved by the film's end, wherein the satisfaction lies in what didn't happen between the two characters.

**"The Matrix: Reloaded" and "The Matrix: Revolutions" (The Wachowski Brothers): Most disappointing sequels**

The Wachowski brothers had it made. With a sophomoric directing effort to their conjoined name, they had already with a cult following. And what better to do than to ruin it with two more films that, when combined with the original, lower the meaning and status of the entire series to slightly above zero. What were supposed to be nothing more than graphic novels became "The Matrix: Reloaded" and "The Matrix: Revolutions" after Warner Brothers recognized the unending fiscal potential these films had. And they were right — the money was there, although substance was not.

**"Girls will be Girls" (Richard Day): Best comedy starring men dressed as women**

Yes, it stars transvestites, but it's not about transvestites. These men — in wigs, dresses, lipstick and full body makeup — are anything but manly. Three men play actresses looking to fill their niches in Hollywood. They deliver priceless one-liners, pastel backgrounds, vicious jealousy and payback. Did I mention the one-liners?

**"Kill Bill: Vol. 1" (Quentin Tarantino): Best half a movie**

Killing people and getting revenge has never looked this easy and this sexy. Tarantino succeeds at making "Kill Bill: Vol. 1" the best action flick of the year and leaves audiences yearning for more. Alongside Uma and her supporting cast of such stars as Lucy Liu, Vivica A. Fox and Michael Madsen, Tarantino managed to whet his followers' appetite for blood and a second half.

**"21 Grams" (Alejandro González Iñárritu): Best Aussie in a motion picture**

Move over Nicole Kidman, welcome Naomi Watts the other hot-blooded actress from down under. Watts gained critical acclaim for her role in Mulholland Drive and unwisely followed that with a starring role in 2001's campy horror flick, "The Ring." "In 21 Grams," Watts leaps forward and overshadows fellow Aussies Kidman and Mel Gibson with an emotionally electric performance that got everyone's attention. Watts delivered the best female performance and the most memorable highlight of 2003's best drama.

**"American Splendor" (Shari Springer Berman and Robert Pulcini): Best biopic featuring the real life figures**

One of the most originally done biopics, where the inspiration behind the film doesn't remain a faceless blob. The story follows Harvey Pekar, a man whose life as a file clerk in a local hospital is anything but exciting. Inspired by his friend Robert Crumb and his comic book success, Harvey decides to write his own underground comic, aptly titled "American Splendor," and achieves a bizarre celebrity status. The films stars Paul Giamatti as Harvey but also includes sudden flashes to the "making-of" the film within the actual feature, and includes appearances by the real Pekar and several other characters in the film. Exceptionally well written and casted, Splendor's secondary characters are just as strong as the main cast and deliver some of the most memorable lines of any film this year.

**"In America" (Jim Sheridan): Best Emotional Roller Coaster**

An 11-year-old girl narrates as a young Irish family tries to find hope in America. For the two young daughters, America is a place filled with magical variety; but for parents Johnny and Sarah, surviving in New York City is a penny-pinching business filled with costly and perilous obstacles. The family's precarious existence seems to multiply every day and Sarah's third pregnancy could be the bomb to break the camel's back. Coincidence, fate or faith (as you like it) however, are also balanced by positive turns of events. "In America" has all the pluses of a heart-rendering coming-of-age story without all the usual trite baggage common among the genre.

# Sports

## Reidy steps down as men's soccer coach to devote full attention to AD position

**BY WALT RIDDLE**
Sports Information Director

SAINT LEO - After 16 years as men's soccer coach, Francis X. Reidy will step down to devote his full attention as Director of Athletics for Saint Leo University, it was announced today. Reidy has been the institution's AD for the past four years.

A search will begin immediately for his replacement. Reidy said his plans are to have the new coach in place by March 1, 2004.

"My family has had to share me with two jobs for a very long time," said Reidy. "They have been patient while I earned my Masters Degree from Saint Leo (Business Administration in 2002), coached a nationally competitive program, while overseeing 12 other programs. It is time they have a husband and a father. We are all looking forward to more quality time together.

"Saint Leo is going from good to great in all that it does. We can see it all around us. The athletic department is doing the same. However, the process was being slowed by my dual role as coach and administrator of a staff of 34 people and 12 other athletic programs. There are plans for expansion and a more complex organization in the future. The department needs a focused leader, and the soccer program needs a full time coach. I finally came to the realization that no matter how many hours I worked, I couldn't be great at both."

Reidy said he plans on exercising the same diligence that he demonstrated in each of the vacancies he has filled since becoming athletic director.

"I will hire the person who is the best fit for our program and has the qualities to take us from good to great," he said.

Reidy finished his coaching career at Saint Leo with an overall record of 140-134-16. He was selected coach-of-the-year twice in the Sunshine State Conference. He holds the school record for wins by a soccer coach. He has produced a number of All-Americas, All-Region and All-Conference players, and three of his former student-athletes were named to the SSC Silver Anniversary 23-man team last month. Numerous players, past and present, have been honored for their academic achievements in the Conference and nationally by the American Soccer Coaches Association.

"Since Fran Reidy came to Saint Leo, he has done everything in service to the institution," said Saint Leo President Dr. Arthur F. Kirk, Jr. "He made this decision because he feels it is best for the University. I greatly respect and appreciate his selflessness. Fran worked extremely hard to ensure both jobs were done very well and they were. His teams performed well and every aspect of our athletic program improved remarkably.

"My biggest regret is that future generations of young men will not be coached and mentored directly by Fran. Every young man who played for him witnessed our values in action every day and graduated better off for it. The positive part of all of this is that Fran will have more time to mentor all of our coaches and further improve the experience and development of every student-athlete."

Despite not winning a league championship, Reidy coached teams have played for the league title three times on the final day of the season against the University of Tampa, but came up short each year.

"I am grateful to the current team, who, although they did not know it at the time, allowed me to walk off University Field here November 4 with a win (3-2) over Tampa in my pocket," said Reidy.

The 2003 team finished the year with an 8-10-3 record and was 4-2-1 over the last third of the season. Included in those wins were two victories in three days over Tampa that gave the Lions a fourth-place finish in the SSC regular season standings and home field advantage for the quarterfinal round of the post-season tournament. The Lions reached the semifinals before bowing out to unbeaten Lynn University, the No. 1 ranked team in Division II.

"I am going to miss game day, the locker room bantering and the excitement of each new season very much," he explained. "But, I know this is the best decision for my family, for our athletic program and ultimately for the men's soccer program.

"I am forever grateful to Norm Kaye (former Saint Leo director of athletics), who gave me this coaching opportunity. I am also thankful Dr. Kirk (University President Dr. Arthur F. Kirk, Jr.) has allowed me to possess the dual role that I have enjoyed. I look forward to the next phase in my professional development and the exciting challenges that await as we advance our entire athletic program."

While coach at Saint Leo, Reidy served on the Division II Men's Regional Soccer Committee (1998-99), the National Men's Soccer Committee (1999-2002) and was a member of the Men's National Ranking Committee (1999-2000). He was chairman of the Tampa Chapter of Soccer in the Streets (1997-98) and is currently active in youth soccer as a coach of Central Pasco.

Reidy, who joined Saint Leo as a part-time coach in 1987 and became full time in 1992, coached the boys' soccer team for six years (1984-90) at Tampa Gaither High School, winning three district titles, two regional crowns, one sectional title and one state runner-up.

"I want to thank the current soccer players, my assistant Gregg Vallee and the entire athletic staff for being very understanding over the past few years," said Reidy.

"The dual role has been more difficult on all of them than on me at times. The staff really stepped up each fall to keep things running smoothly.

"I am very proud of the fact that I have left the program in much better shape than I found it many years ago. It has gone from perhaps one of the worst soccer jobs in the country to one that is nationally recognized and respected. There will no doubt be tremendous interest in the position that is now vacant."

## A spirited squad cheers SLU athletes

**BY SEPTEMBER HARRISON**
Staff Writer for The Lions' Pride

SAINT LEO - This year seems to be a building year for Saint Leo's cheerleading squad. Three years ago there were no cheerleaders to support the men's and women's athletic teams. But, after two years of going unnoticed, this year's squad plans to change their status in the athletic department.

The squad consists of ten girls; nine of them are freshman. Among them is freshman Alexandria Cronin. Cronin has high hopes and expectations for this year's squad. "All of us are used to going to different competitions and competing almost year around. So even though we don't get to compete this year, we are all excited about working toward competing next year," says Cronin.

There are also two new coaches to the cheerleading program. One of them, Darlene Lyman, graduated from Saint Leo last semester. She was interested in building the cheerleading program. " I volunteered because I knew the cheerleaders needed a little help in doing their best to become a sanctioned sport, and I wanted to be a part of that," Lyman says.

The cheerleaders don't get a lot of funding from the school because cheerleading is not yet considered a sanctioned sport. It would be a sanctioned sport if Saint Leo had a football team because there has to be the same ratio of men's and women's sports at the University.

The cheerleaders bought their own uniforms and will provide their own transportation to games other than conference games. However, a van will be provided by the athletic department so the squad can cheer at conference games.

In addition to the new uniforms, the cheerleaders even have new equipment to allow them to practice their stunts and tumbling. Even the people who help the squad with gymnastics are volunteers who just want to see the girls' squad rise and excel.

Photograph courtesy of Julia Carroll

Left to right: Megan Pitts, Dani Diamond, Ali Cronin, Christine Coppin, Dona Barkley, Erica Gardner (Captain), Jillian Kornick (Captain), and Nicole Braun (Captain).